

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) A method of forwarding post, comprising the steps of:
  - determining if a current post destination address is expired,
  - if said destination address is expired, determining if an addressee of said post maintains a forwarding service, and
  - if said forwarding service is maintained, forwarding said post to an addressee destination address.
2. (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of offering a forwarding service to said addressee if said addressee does not maintain a forwarding service.
3. (currently amended) The method according to claims ~~1~~ and 2, further comprising the step of not forwarding said post to an addressee destination address if said addressee does not maintain a forwarding service.

4. (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein said step of not forwarding further comprises the step of destroying said post.

5. (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said step of not forwarding further comprises a select time delay prior to destruction of said post.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claims ~~1 to~~ 5, wherein said step of determining, further comprises the steps of:

- scanning an address face of said post for a TAG ID, and
- consulting a database for records related to said TAG ID, said records indicating said TAG ID is expired.

7. (original) An apparatus for forwarding post, comprising:

- means for determining if a current post destination address is expired,
- means for determining if an addressee of said post maintains a forwarding service if said destination address is expired, and
- means for forwarding said post to an addressee destination address if said forwarding service is maintained.

8. (original) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising means for offering a forwarding service to said addressee if said addressee does not maintain a forwarding service.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claims ~~7~~ and 8, further comprising means for not forwarding said post to an addressee destination address if said addressee does not maintain a forwarding service.

10. (original) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said means for not forwarding further comprises means for destroying said post.

11. (original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said means for not forwarding further comprises a select time delay prior to destruction of said post.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claims ~~7~~ to 11, wherein said means for determining further comprises:

- means for scanning an address face of said post for a TAG ID, and
- means for consulting a database for records related to said TAG ID, said records indicating said TAG ID is expired.